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Gender in UNDP

Update on the progress achieved in the partnership between UNDP and UNIFEM

1. In its decisions 2004/21 and 2004/38, the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board requested UNDP, in January 2005, to elaborate on how UNDP could scale up operations based on lessons learned in pilot projects undertaken by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); and to provide an update on progress achieved in the partnership between UNDP and UNIFEM.

2. This report outlines four dimensions of a strengthened UNDP/UNIFEM partnership to enhance gender mainstreaming in UNDP and promote gender equality through (a) scaling up innovations piloted by UNIFEM; (b) joint programming for enhanced development effectiveness; (c) strengthening support to UNDP country programmes; and (d) utilizing the UNDP role as coordinator of the resident coordinator system and chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) to advance gender mainstreaming. It also responds to the request made by the Executive Board in its decision 2002/20, that UNIFEM include in its multi-year funding framework (MYFF) a strategy to address UNDP shortcomings in gender mainstreaming, while endorsing UNDP/ UNIFEM collaboration in support of the resident coordinator system, "particularly through greater use of the expertise of UNIFEM in areas of its comparative advantage".

3. Progress has been made across all four dimensions. The first dimension, *scaling up innovations piloted by UNIFEM*, draws on the strengths of both organizations to maximize the impact of our work. During the period of our organizational MYFFs, 2004-2007, we will focus on three areas:

A. *Strengthening gender justice in post-conflict countries.*

4. Following the recommendations of the Conference on Gender Justice in Post-Conflict Situations, organized by UNIFEM and the International Legal Assistance Consortium in September 2005, the UNDP Bureau of Conflict Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), the UNDP Bureau of Development Policy and UNIFEM are partnering to provide coordinated assistance to post-conflict

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countries in strengthening the rule of law, including: amending national laws and constitutions to protect women's rights; reforming the judicial infrastructure to ensure women's equal access to justice; building women's legal capacity; and increasing women's participation in post-conflict reconstruction. The partnership draws on the knowledge and experience of UNIFEM in building women's grass-roots and professional networks to promote gender justice to enhance the ability of UNDP to administer gender-sensitive justice reform in crisis and post-conflict countries.

B. *Addressing the links between gender and poverty in work on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).*

5. Progress towards achieving the MDGs requires a coordinated response by the appropriate United Nations agencies in several areas, including the need to address the forces that generate feminized poverty and exclusion in the context of globalization and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Drawing on UNDP leadership as scorekeeper for the MDGs, BDP is working in partnership with UNIFEM, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Statistics Division to look at the links between informal employment, gender and poverty in order to derive concrete strategies and policy recommendations to incorporate into the MDGs and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs).

6. UNDP and UNIFEM are partnering to address the links between gender, poverty and HIV/AIDS to provide strategies for reversing the spread of the pandemic, especially among women and girls. UNDP and UNIFEM will co-chair a roundtable discussion on human rights and gender at the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS (UNGASS) in 2005, designed to provide concrete recommendations on gender equality and HIV/AIDS that can be integrated into the United Nations system response to Millennium Goal 6, "Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases".

C. *Applying a gender and pro-poor analysis to national and local budgets.*

7. Drawing on UNIFEM experience with gender budget analysis in over 20 countries, UNDP is dramatically scaling up its capacity-building support to countries to assist them in implementing their strategies to achieve the MDGs, meet their obligations to eliminate gender discrimination as parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and in fulfilling their commitments to women as expressed in the Beijing Platform for Action.

8. The second dimension, *strengthening joint programming*, consists of high-impact joint initiatives in specific practice areas. UNDP practice leaders and regional bureaux and UNIFEM thematic advisors have completed a mapping of existing and potential areas of partnership in order to develop coordinated action plans to implement the new MYFFs. This points to a potential for strengthening joint programming by building on current joint initiatives to (a) enhance support to countries in achieving the MDGs; (b) advance women's human rights and eliminate gender-based violence in the framework of Action II of the reform agenda of the Secretary General; (c) to widen the 'windows of opportunity' presented by crisis and post-conflict situations to promote women's political, economic, social and cultural rights and incorporate gender justice into new and emerging laws and institutions; (d) to protect the security and rights of women and children of AIDS victims through legal and policy changes that ensure their land

and inheritance rights; and (c) to enhance democratic governance, especially by promoting legislative, electoral and judicial reform to ensure that women's rights are protected in law and in practice, building capacity for the implementation of CEDAW and supporting women candidates in national and local elections (see Annex).

9. The third dimension, *strengthening support to UNDP country programmes*, includes:

10. *Ensuring gender expertise across UNDP practice areas*. The annual report of the Administrator of UNDP 2002 (DP/2003/11) noted joint activities with UNIFEM in more than half of its programme countries. Regular communications from the UNDP Administrator, the Director of BDP and the Executive Director of UNIFEM to country offices have been instrumental in encouraging further partnership in programme countries where gender capacities are limited, and these partnerships will be strengthened by joint visits where feasible.

11. Strengthened support will focus on United Nations coordinating mechanisms, especially the MDGs and the PRSPs. Results have already been seen in UNDP support to countries with respect to strategies for achieving the MDGs, as well as in MDG reports in Cambodia, Senegal, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Peru. In its expanding role in crisis prevention and recovery, UNDP has drawn on its partnership with UNIFEM to ensure gender expertise in peace building and democratic governance. In Afghanistan, for example, UNDP and UNIFEM worked together to support women's participation in the Constitutional Loya Jirga process, resulting in the recognition of women's equality within the transitional constitution. Field-based collaboration between the organizations continues to generate concrete results in Afghanistan, Albania, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti and Timor Leste.

12. *Uniting the efforts of UNDP regional centres and UNIFEM sub-regional programme offices* to become regional hubs for expanded knowledge and action on gender equality. In Bratislava Bangkok and Dakar, where the offices are co-located, UNDP and UNIFEM staff are taking the lead in coordinating efforts to support UNDP country programmes. After a joint mission to Bratislava in October 2004 by the Director of BDP and the Executive Director of UNIFEM, the regional centre identified four areas of good practice and priorities for joint programming: (a) support for legislative review and changes to promote gender equality and eliminate gender discrimination; (b) support to poverty reduction strategies through addressing the links between gender discrimination, poverty and unemployment, labour migration and trafficking; (c) support for adopting a gender perspective in strategies to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS; and (d) support to incorporating gender considerations into national and local budgets. Joint programming is also progressing in some locations where the offices are not co-located, such as Beirut and Johannesburg, and will be initiated in the relocated UNDP office in Colombo.

13. The fourth dimension, drawing on UNDP, as *coordinator of the resident coordinator system and chair of the UNDG* to advance gender mainstreaming, focuses on:

(a) Developing an "innovation institute" of good practices on gender equality. UNDP and UNIFEM are exploring the potential for launching an innovation institute that brings to the fore the best examples of how to implement gender

equality and provides support for replication and scaling up within UNDP and among United Nations partners. The institute, to convene on an annual basis, will provide resident coordinators and others within the United Nations system with cutting-edge knowledge on mainstreaming gender and supporting women's rights, based on examples and good practices from the field.

(b) *Strengthening performance with respect to gender equality within the UNDG:* UNDP and UNIFEM are working together to strengthen the gender theme groups and support gender equality in coordination mechanisms such as the CCA/UNDAF process, PRSPs, and the MDGs at the country level; and to consider an annual review of United Nations country ream performance in supporting countries in the fulfilment of their gender equality commitments.

14. A measure of the effectiveness of this strengthened partnership will be the outcomes expected in 2005, notably (a) achieving greater visibility for the UNDP-UNIFEM partnership on gender during the 10-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing +10), highlighting the progress that has been made; (b) linking Beijing +10 to the Millennium Summit +5 and progress in implementing the MDGs; and c) strengthening gender mainstreaming in UNDP country programmes and strengthening the impact of innovative UNIFEM work to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

15. UNDP is gathering information on the opportunities and challenges for gender mainstreaming through an evaluation of its work on gender mainstreaming being conducted by the Evaluation Office. The results of this evaluation, to be released in June 2005, will provide practical insights into the areas that merit stronger UNDP-UNIFEM action.

Annex

Examples of UNDP-UNIFEM collaboration (existing and projected) in gender mainstreaming

Practice area	Africa	Asia-Pacific and the Arab States	Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS	Latin America and the Caribbean	Global
Achieving the MDGs and reducing poverty	Harmonizing national laws with Beijing+10 and CEDAW measures (Cape Verde, Niger and Senegal)	Incorporating strategic and budgetary commitments to eliminate feminized poverty into PRSPs, CCA/UNDAFs and the MDGs (Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam)	Advocating for policies to improve women's position in formal and informal labour markets in national employment plans (Albania and Romania) Engendering ICT strategies and policy Amending land reform legislation to include women's right to own land (Albania and Serbia and Montenegro)	Developing a gender-sensitive poverty survey through the UNDP poverty centre in Brazil to assess feminized poverty Strengthening the International Gender and Trade Network for advocacy and knowledge production Producing an analysis of MDG reports using a gender 'lens'	UNIFEM execution of UNDP gender and MDGs project to build advocacy and capacity of United Nations country teams and governments to engender the MDGs (Cambodia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Peru) Mainstreaming gender in PRSP and MDG processes and linking to gender budgets to track investment in women's empowerment
Responding to HIV/AIDS	Developing and using gender-disaggregated data on paid and unpaid work in the context of HIV/AIDS to influence policy (Eastern Africa, English-speaking West Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa)	Execution by UNIFEM of a gender component of the larger UNDP HIV/AIDS programme (Papua New Guinea) Translating *Turning the Tide: CEDAW and the Gender Dimensions of the HIV/AIDS Pandemic* into Arabic and developing mechanisms to scale up this initiative	Setting up mechanisms for addressing gender and HIV/AIDS through United Nations country team theme groups and the gender focal point network in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS	Strengthening capacities of key staff in policymaking and programming to incorporate gender issues (Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua) Developing a model for addressing the links between violence against women (VAW) and HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean sub-region	Reviewing land and inheritance laws affecting the widows and children of AIDS victims in the context of CEDAW Convening HIV/AIDS roundtable on human rights and gender at 2005 UNGASS to provide concrete recommendations and strategies for inclusion in the United Nations system response to Goal 6
Crisis prevention and recovery	Advocating for adoption and use of conflict-resolution strategies during peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction in Southern African countries Supporting women ex-combatants and demobilized women's participation in DDR and conflict resolution in Central Africa	Enhancing institutional capacity of CSOs and women's grassroots organizations active in ending VAW, including dealing with conflict-related VAW	Developing gender-based early warning/ crisis prevention indicators on a sub-regional programme (Central Asia)	Developing approaches to gender based protection at government and civil society levels in Colombia; Strengthening alliances between women's networks in Haiti and those addressing governance and the rule of law in the wider Caribbean	Supporting women's groups to participate in institutional reform, community reintegration and DDR Strengthening implementation of resolution 1325, including planning DDR operations and developing gender-based early warning indicators
Fostering democratic governance	Supporting women ex-combatants and demobilized women's participation in DDR and conflict resolution initiatives (Central Africa) Strengthening capacity of law enforcement agents and other institutions to apply human rights principles (Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan)	Increasing access of South Asia parliamentarians to diverse resources on gender issues Incorporating women's rights in post-conflict constitutions, legislative frameworks and governance processes (Afghanistan, Iraq and East Timor)	Setting up CEDAW implementation and monitoring mechanisms with benchmarks and indicators (Central and Eastern Europe, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan)	UNIFEM execution of UNDP project to strengthen participation of women and civil society leaders in Caribbean political processes Strengthening national laws and policies to promote women's rights re VAW and facilitate their implementation (Bahamas, Barbados, Brazil, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago)	Strengthening government and NGO capacity for CEDAW reporting Supporting women candidates in national and local elections Through trust fund, introduce legislation and policies on VAW and advocate for changing civil and criminal laws to incorporate issues of VAW in all regions